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**A web star**  
Trapped  
at home,  
but a hit  
in China **P13**



## NEWS Shot Britons were kind, says girl

A friend of one of the British tourists shot dead in Florida described the two men as 'kind and innocent'. Gina Cross saw James Cooper just two days before he was gunned down with his friend James Kouzaris **P5**

## NEWS Quarter of 16s to reach 100

Children aged under 16 now have a one in four chance of living to reach 100, new official figures show. In about 85 years, the first batch of 3.3million centenarians will be toasting a very special birthday **P7**



## FAME I want to be a 'Sir', says Brand

Russell Brand not only wants to play Sir Bob Geldof in a biopic - he also wants a knighthood himself. 'I think that is inevitable,' said the surprisingly ardent monarchist **P28**

## SPORT Van der Sar: We'll bounce back

Edwin van der Sar is confident Manchester United will have no trouble raising their spirits for tonight's league trip to Newcastle after Saturday's FA Cup misery **P58**



Wanted: Susanne Ibru fled court before a verdict was given **Picture: PA**

# Rio: My crazed stalker ordeal

By **Aidan Radnedge**

ENGLAND footballer Rio Ferdinand told yesterday of his anger at being stalked by a woman claiming they had a 'relationship' and who called to him as she left court: 'See you soon.'

New father Ferdinand said he felt 'upset and alarmed' at being harassed late at night by fan Susanne Ibru.

The Manchester United player feared for his family when Ibru repeatedly turned up at his home, demanding she be let in.

Ibru was convicted of stalking the former England captain but fled before the verdict and before she could be sentenced.

When she left Macclesfield magistrates' court at lunchtime, she told Ferdinand: 'See you soon, bye.'

A warrant for the 38-year-old's arrest was issued when she did not return and she was convicted in her absence.

Ferdinand's wife Rebecca was due to give evidence but was feeling too unwell after giving birth to the couple's third child on Saturday.

Mrs Ferdinand previously told po-

lice: 'Everything she has said about a relationship with Rio is all lies.'

Ferdinand, 32, clashed with Ibru when she cross-examined him in court. She described an alleged meeting in 1998 as 'the first time I set my eyes on you, apart from seeing you on the news and on the TV'. But Ferdinand retorted: 'I don't even know you. You should not be at my house.'

Ibru called three times at his home in Alderley Edge, Cheshire. Her first visit was in February last year, when she buzzed the intercom while Ferdinand and his wife were asleep.

He told the court: 'At first I was angry and upset but then disturbed, because I have got a young family and this was not the time or the place to be coming to speak to me.'

Ibru returned twice in June, telling Ferdinand 'things needed to be resolved' and also pleading: 'Don't associate me with being a fan - I'm more than that.'

# Discount shops hit the malls

POUND shops, fast-food restaurants and bargain clothing outlets are invading shopping centres as hard-up Britons economise, a new report shows. They are migrating from high streets to better locations indoors with Poundland and Greggs leading the charge, say retail consultants Trevor Wood Associates. Poundland has taken over many Woolworths sites while Peacocks and H&M are in the top ten fastest migrators, the analysis of 500 malls and shopping centres shows. 'They are simply providing what the public wants,' said a spokesman.